

## NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Assistant Secretary Franklin D. Roosevelt will address the members of the Order of Washington at their annual banquet to be held at the Army and Navy Club the evening of February 22.

The following officers of the navy recently reported at the department: Ensigns F. J. Percival, U. S. S. Sacramento, R. M. Fortson, U. S. S. Nevada, and W. M. Snelling, U. S. S. Connecticut, and W. A. Charles, U. S. S. Raleigh. The police at the navy yard, who tendered his resignation after almost fifty years in that service.

Lieut. Julius C. Townsend, who is to serve on the battleship Oklahoma when that vessel is placed in commission, has been nominated to be a lieutenant commander.

President Wilson has recommended that Congress authorize the appointment of Rene W. Pinto y Wentworth to West Point and Carlos Hevia

Reves Gavillan to the Naval Academy as an act of courtesy to Cuba.

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**NAVY YARD.**

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William Andrews, a machinist of the breech mechanism shop, died at his home, on Georgia avenue northwest Thursday, after an illness of three years. His funeral was in charge of the Odd Fellows. A delegation from Columbia Lodge, No. 174, I. O. of M. consisting of George Joyner, Charles Savage and W. H. Webb, also attended.

the funeral as pallbearers. William Bryant, a toolmaker, resigned Saturday to accept a similar position with the American Can Company, at Edgewater, N. J. Arthur G. Miller, a machinist in the miscellaneous shop, is being congratulated upon successfully passing the District bar examination Wednesday.

W. D. Cullen, a machinist of the east gun carriage shop, is confined to the Sibley Hospital, where he underwent a serious operation.

E. L. Donithan, H. Richards and L. Scott, machinists of the breech mechanism shop, were promoted from the miscellaneous shop.

At the regular meeting of Columbia Lodge, No. 174, I. A. of M., the legislative committee was instructed to try to obtain fifteen days' additional leave for the workmen in the navy yard. At present they receive fifteen days, while the employees of the rest of the departments receive thirty days' annual leave and thirty days' annual sick leave. The committee also has been authorized to make an engineering estimate of the erecting shop, which has been projected from \$4.24 to \$4.48 per dim.

George Topper, a toolmaker, with his family, returned from a visit to relatives and friends at Frederick, Md. Notice has been posted announcing

The postponement of the examination for quartermen and leading man from January 27 to February 17.

Arthur Oblinger, leading man of the copper shop is absent for five days' leave.

E. W. Robinson of the boiler shop returned to work after an illness of three weeks.

Harry Ragsdale, George H. Fisher, John B. Byers and W. H. Butler of the miscellaneous shop were promoted from \$4.24 to \$4.48 per diem.

J. M. Earnest, machinist of the miscellaneous shop, has resigned to devote his entire time to real estate business.

J. B. Brenner, sr., a coppersmith, died last week. He was one of the oldest

employees in the yard, being a Confederate veteran. He participated in the famous Pickett charge at the battle of Gettysburg.

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**The Searchlight** LATEST NEWS  
SCIENCE  
EDUCATION  
AND  
DEVOTION

**Oiling the Ocean.**

The experiences of several seamen would seem to show that it is possible to clear a way through a fog by pouring

ing oil of the water beneath it. The question has not been closely enough investigated to make it possible to say whether this method of clearing the atmosphere would be effective in all kinds of fogs, as fogs are due to different causes, and it has been known to work in some cases. The hydrographic bureau is collecting all the information available on the matter, since something of the sort would be immensely useful in crowded waterways.

The seamen who have seen the trick done say that when vessels of oil were accidentally broken in foggy weather the oil ran out through the ship's scuppers, and over that part of the water.

**A New Diving Suit.**  
An apparatus by which the diver becomes independent of the air cable, which connect him with a pump on shore or in a boat has been patented by a German inventor. He provides a bag of air which the diver carries on his back, and which is supplied with wind from below it in again from the banks on either side; but by oiling the whole surface of the water in some land-locked and populous inlet, such a New York harbor, it may prove possible to keep clear weather, no matter what nature tries to do.

his back, thus insuring an oxygen supply. The stifling carbonic acid gas, which is thrown off in process of breathing, is taken care of by certain chemicals. These chemicals absorb the gas, thereby transforming it into carbonate and so the limited air supply is purified.

A simplified form of this apparatus is being tested in the German navy for the benefit of submarine crews in case of accident. The simplified suit is built without a diving helmet, and is so compact that it can be carried in a pocket. Should it become necessary for the men to leave their craft and make for the surface, the air supply is automatically cut off, thus

**"Nothing Particular"  
Gets Him Into Trouble**

Just opening the door a crack from the outside, a man peered in at the staff of the secret service one day not so long ago. One of the men engaged at work at one of the desks near the door

looked up and demanded what the stranger wanted.

"Nothing particular," was the answer.

He was induced to come into the room and there was questioned. Finally, believing the man was not of sound mind, he was introduced to Chief Flynn, who also quizzed him.

"Nothing particular," was his reply to the question of what induced his call upon the secret service. He told that he had been up to the Capitol, but had been doing "nothing particular" there, according to his own idea. He

was from out of town, and his reason for coming to Washington was "nothing particular." His home was in New Jersey, he said, and explained he did "nothing particular" for a living.

It developed that the man was an escapee from a private sanatorium, and had been writing letters to the President. Some one, detecting his mania, had sent him to call upon the secret service. His relatives were notified and came and took him home.